



Cotton Insect Newsletter

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Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

21 June 2007

Crop Situation

The USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had us at 100% planted on 17 June 2007, finishing ahead of the 5-yr average of 99% planted acres. Also reported was progress of 14% squaring, just behind the 5-yr average of 20%. Things are looking much better after the recent rains. About 5% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 50% good, 40% fair, 5% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

News from Above the Lakes

No news to report this week. This is your turn for input – send your comments and observations to me.

News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis in Calhoun County reported late last week that “cotton in the Calhoun-Orangeburg area is looking good thanks to the week of rain. I have heard reports of significant worm eggs in some scouted fields. Good many moths seen also.”

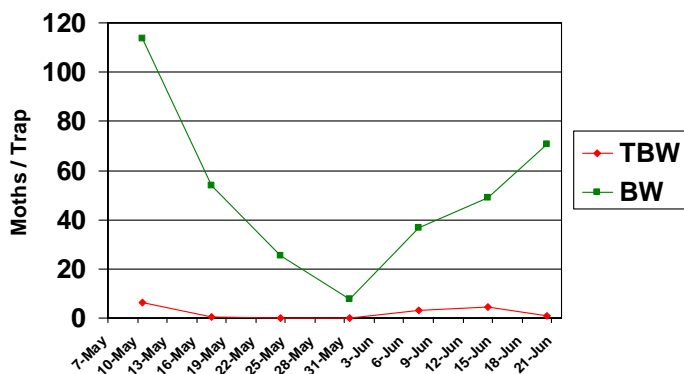


Bollworm (left) and tobacco budworm (right)

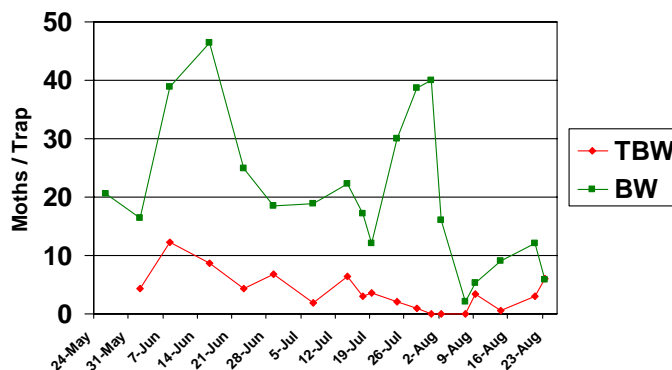
Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm

Captures of adult tobacco budworm and bollworm in pheromone traps at EREC for this season and last season are pictured below. We detected very few tobacco budworms, but levels of bollworm capture are increasing. We captured better than 50% more bollworm moths per trap this week than this time last year. We could see numbers of bollworm moths peak next week. With corn acreage so high and varied in growth stage, nobody knows exactly what we should expect out of corn earworm (bollworm), but it would not be surprising if we had heavy pressure from corn earworm (bollworm) in cotton this season.

Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2007)



Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)



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Plant Bugs & Stink Bugs

We need to keep an eye on developing populations of sucking bugs during the period right before and during the first week or two of bloom. If we are going to have problems with plant bugs, that is the critical time for them (tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris*, and cotton fleahopper, *Pseudatomoscelis seriatus*) as they prefer to feed on pre-floral buds (squares – see photo of feeding injury to square below), blooms, and small bolls. Most fields in South Carolina will not develop problems with plant bugs, but some will require treatment. After the first couple of weeks of bloom, stink bugs will be the most important pests in the complex of sucking-bugs. See the following link and publication for good photos of common bugs with distributions in our area:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/Pages/Entom/EB158.pdf>



Tarnished plant bug nymph and adult on square (left); injury to square (center); and 5th instar nymph (right).



Egg mass, two stages (of 5) of nymphs, and adult of southern green stink bug (left); 5th instar nymph and adult of green stink bug (center); and two stages (of 5) of nymphs and adult of brown stink bug (right).

Printed Cotton Insect Recommendations

Copies of the newly revised “Cotton Insect Management” (IC 97) recommendations are available at your local county office. You can visit the following website for an electronic version of the recommendations:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

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Need More Information?

Log on to the following webpages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters:

<http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

<http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

Sincerely,

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